

SEPARATION OF ADULT PSYCHODA AND PERICOMA (DIPTERA, PSYCHODIDÆ)¹

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Workers who have tried to separate adult specimens of *Psychoda* and *Pericoma* have found that they could do so only with a great deal of difficulty or by using reared specimens. The larvæ of the two genera may be easily recognized, since they differ greatly in form. A glance at plate XII in Dr. Johannsen's (1943) excellent work on aquatic diptera will verify this fact. Unfortunately, very few workers have reared material to work with.

The genus *Psychoda* was erected by Latreille (1796: 152) and was defined as follows:

“Antennes de la longueur des deux tiers du corps, de douze articles pyriformes, plumeus. Antennules longues, droites ou inclinees, de quatre articles. Levres formant un becpointu.”

(Antennæ having a length of twice the body, with 12 pyriform plumose segments. Antennules long, straight, or curved, of 4 segments. Labrum forming a pointed beak.)

Tonnoir (1922: 50-54) has given an excellent discussion of the external morphology of the genus *Psychoda*.

The genus *Pericoma* was erected by Walker (1856: 256) and was defined as follows:

“Proboscis brevior, non compressa. Labrum breve. Maxillae obsoletae. Antennae moniliformes. Alae maris et foeminae aequales.

“Proboscis shorter than in *Psychoda*, not compressed. Labrum short. Maxillae obsolete. Antennae moniliform. Wings tense. Larva with rows of hairs; inhabits water, bent into a ring, the tufts of curved hairs detaining a covering of mud.”

Unfortunately, we have never had a good morphological study of this genus.

The following table, in conjunction with the illustrations, will aid in separating the two genera.

¹ I am greatly indebted to Dr. H. F. Chu for making the drawings for Figure 1.

*Psychoda**Pericoma*

Antenna:

Intermediate segments with a bulbous base and a distinct neck; the terminal segments from the 13th on are diminutive and may be partly fused together. Fig. 1, C.

Antenna:

Segments pyriform, without distinct necks. Distinctly 16-segmented in both sexes. Fig. 1, D.

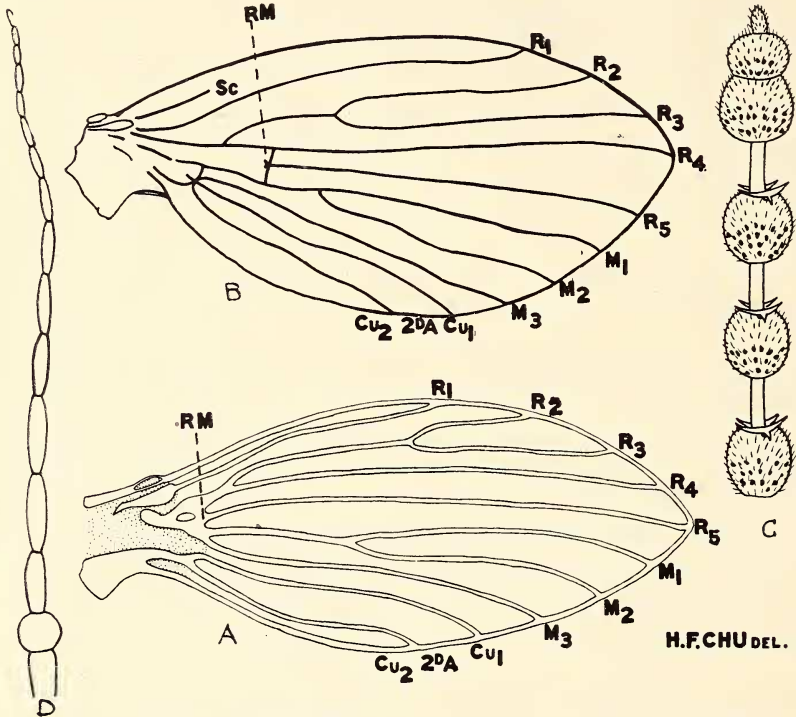


FIG. 1. A, Wing of *Psychoda*; B, Wing of *Pericoma*; C, Antennæ of *Psychoda*; D, Antennæ of *Pericoma*.

Wing:

The tip of R_5 exactly reaches the always pointed wing tip. Anterior fork always more pointed than the posterior.

Cross vein RM at base of wing. Fig. 1, A.

Wing:

The tip of R_4 ends either in the exact wing tip or a little behind it. When R_4 ends at the tip of the wing this tip is rounded.

Cross vein RM about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the length of the wing from the base. Fig. 1, B.

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